**“The goal of education in the 21st century is not simply the mastery of content knowledge or use of new technologies. It is the mastery of the learning process.”**

**CAST (2011). Universal Design for Learning Guidelines Version 2.0. Wakefield, MA: Author.**



*IS 302 is piloting the iZone next September with 200 students in grades 6 and 7, inclusive of students with special needs, with the intent to expand the program in future years. Click for further information: [iZone Press/Multimedia Overviews](http://schools.nyc.gov/community/innovation/izone/Explore_More/default.htm)*

**Our Objectives**

* Implement tailored instruction to meet and address the interests and needs of individual students.
* Infuse technology and foster the development of [21st century skills](http://www.fluency21.com/).

**Our Vision**

*We envision the iZone as an academy of learning that infuses our school’s overall mission and vision into the 21st century learning environment, with blended coursework being at the heart of this movement toward college and career readiness.*

**Key Points**

* The iZone instructional approach is based on the principles of CAST’s (Center for Applied Special Technology) Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

*Click for further information:* <http://www.cast.org/udl/>

* The iZone classroom is technology driven, with technology employed as a means rather than an end.
* Students will utilize the iLearn platform regularly to access content, complete class-work, and take assessments. The iLearnNYC platform consists of content in all subject areas delivered via multiple vendors. This blended coursework model consists of face-to-face and virtual (online) learning experiences.
* The core of the program is personalized instruction, directly based on ongoing assessment.

**Are You Interested in Becoming an iZone Educator?**

**Prior to expressing interest in being an iZone educator, please take the following into consideration:**

* There will be mandated professional development, provided by NYCDOE’s Innovation Zone, beginning in May. Professional Development will also be provided over the summer (in mid-late August). There will also be mandatory online participation in the iZone collaborative network, as we are required to be a member of an iZone community of schools piloting the initiative. (Think of this as professional social networking, with the sharing of ideas at the core.)
* Since most of the prep work is online, it is highly recommended that teachers have Internet access at home.
* iZone educators will receive professional development on the iLearn platform, **not** on general computer use. It is expected that iZone educators be well versed in Microsoft’s Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint, Excel) and the storing of and access to documents online. A base knowledge of the conventions of [digital citizenship](http://www.fluency21.com/) and professional social networking is suggested.
* The iZone is based on a constructivist approach to pedagogy (mastery of learning HOW to learn, not simply learning content). iZone educators need to understand this concept and be willing to grow to adopt this philosophy of education. Professional growth should not only be expected and accepted, but also embraced.
* Standards, curriculum and state assessment guidelines for students remain the same, as do contractual obligations for teachers. This includes lesson planning, snapshots, walkthroughs and formal observations.

**Websites to consult for further information/clarification:**

<http://www.martavalle.org/2009-2010/innovation-learning-walk>

(Features an ELA lesson in an iZone high school)

<http://innovationfieldtrips.org/>

(Includes an array of video tours of innovative school that have successfully adopted and implemented a technology-driven instructional approach. (elementary, middle and high schools)